

## PICKENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

1348 Griffin Mill Road  
Easley, South Carolina 29640

**GRADES** PK-12

**ENROLLMENT** 15,920 Students

**SUPERINTENDENT** Dr. Mendel Stewart 864-855-8150

**BOARD CHAIR** Mr. Dan Sharpe 864-878-3847

**FISCAL AUTHORITY** District Board/Referendum

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT CARD

# 2003

#### ABSOLUTE RATING:

**EXCELLENT**

Absolute Ratings of Districts with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
1	8	0	0	0

#### IMPROVEMENT RATING:

**GOOD**

#### ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

**N/A**

#### SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

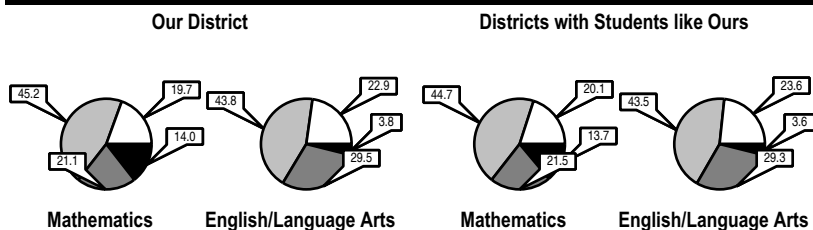
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:**





**[WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM](http://WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM)**

**[WWW.SCEOC.ORG](http://WWW.SCEOC.ORG)**

**PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD**

	<b>Absolute Rating</b>	<b>Improvement Rating</b>	<b>Adequate Yearly Progress</b>
2001	Good	Average	N/A
2002	Good	Average	N/A
2003	Excellent	Good	N/A
2004			

**PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS****Definition of Critical Terms**

	<b>Advanced</b>	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	<b>Proficient</b>	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	<b>Basic</b>	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	<b>Below Basic</b>	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

**NOTE:** Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

**TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM**

	<b>Our District</b>			<b>Districts with Students Like Ours</b>		
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Passed all 3 subtests</b>	81.0	81.8	76.6	73.3	73.0	71.3
<b>Passed 2 subtests</b>	11.3	12.3	14.2	14.5	15.1	16.7
<b>Passed 1 subtest</b>	5.3	4.0	6.9	7.9	7.4	7.4
<b>Passed no subtests</b>	2.4	1.8	2.2	4.4	4.4	4.2

**ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS**

<b>Percent of</b>	<b>Our District</b>	<b>Districts with Students Like Ours</b>
<b>Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*</b>	21.8	19.3
<b>Seniors who met the SAT requirement</b>	22.0	19.7
<b>Seniors who met the grade point average</b>	57.4	55.9

\*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

**PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP**

	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced	State Objective
<b>English/Language Arts</b>								
All students	7,796	99.7	22.9	43.8	29.5	3.8	33.3	17.6
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	3,931	99.6	28.7	44.2	24.6	2.5	27.1	17.6
Female	3,865	99.8	17.0	43.4	34.4	5.2	39.6	17.6
<b>Racial/Ethnic Group</b>								
White	6,873	99.7	20.9	43.9	31.2	4.0	35.2	17.6
African-American	708	99.7	40.7	46.4	11.8	1.1	12.9	17.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	57	100.0	11.8	19.6	45.1	23.5	68.6	17.6
Hispanic	147	98.6	36.6	35.0	26.8	1.6	28.5	17.6
American Indian/Alaskan	6	100.0						17.6
<b>Disability Status</b>								
Not disabled	6,538	99.8	16.3	45.1	34.1	4.5	38.6	17.6
Disabled	1,258	99.4	58.0	36.8	4.9	0.3	5.2	17.6
<b>Migrant Status</b>								
Migrant		0.0						17.6
Non-migrant	7,796	99.7	22.9	43.8	29.5	3.8	33.3	17.6
<b>English Proficiency</b>								
Limited English proficient	85	98.8	55.1	33.3	11.6		11.6	17.6
Non-limited English proficient	7,711	99.7	22.5	43.9	29.7	3.9	33.6	17.6
<b>Socio-Economic Status</b>								
Subsidized meals	3,086	99.6	35.8	46.3	16.8	1.1	17.8	17.6
Full-pay meals	4,710	99.8	15.0	42.3	37.2	5.5	42.7	17.6

<b>Mathematics</b>								
All students	7,796	100.0	19.7	45.2	21.1	14.0	35.1	15.5
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	3,931	100.0	20.0	44.4	21.1	14.4	35.5	15.5
Female	3,865	100.0	19.4	45.9	21.0	13.6	34.7	15.5
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Full-pay meals	4,710	100.0	12.9	42.4	25.5	19.3	44.7	15.5

**Abbreviations for Missing Data**

**N/A** Not Applicable

**N/C** Not Collected

**N/R** Not Reported

**I/S** Insufficient Sample

**PACT PERFORMANCE BY GRADE LEVEL**

		Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced and Proficient
English/Language Arts							
2002	Grade 3	1,201		12.1	41.5	40.7	46.4
	Grade 4	1,248		15.9	45.1	35.5	39.0
	Grade 5	1,220		16.4	54.3	27.1	29.4
	Grade 6	1,234		21.6	38.3	31.3	40.0
	Grade 7	1,336		19.3	45.6	30.4	35.0
	Grade 8	1,200		21.0	45.0	28.0	34.0
2003	Grade 3	1,231	99.4	16.1	35.8	42.4	48.1
	Grade 4	1,298	99.7	20.0	45.8	32.0	34.1
	Grade 5	1,324	99.7	21.3	49.0	27.2	29.7
	Grade 6	1,309	99.9	29.6	38.7	24.4	31.8
	Grade 7	1,251	99.8	23.9	46.3	27.4	29.8
	Grade 8	1,383	99.7	25.8	46.6	24.7	27.7
Mathematics							
2002	Grade 3	1,201		18.7	42.7	23.5	38.6
	Grade 4	1,248		18.8	39.5	21.9	41.6
	Grade 5	1,220		24.9	44.4	19.9	30.7
	Grade 6	1,234		25.3	43.2	20.9	31.4
	Grade 7	1,336		32.3	36.4	15.7	31.3
	Grade 8	1,200		30.2	46.8	15.3	23.0
2003	Grade 3	1,231	100.0	14.3	44.6	23.2	41.0
	Grade 4	1,298	100.0	15.0	47.6	22.5	37.3
	Grade 5	1,324	100.0	17.8	49.3	22.2	32.9
	Grade 6	1,309	100.0	19.8	38.1	24.0	42.2
	Grade 7	1,251	100.0	25.8	40.1	19.5	34.1
	Grade 8	1,383	100.0	25.2	50.8	15.4	24.0

**STATE PERFORMANCE ON NATIONAL TESTS**

**Terra Nova:** a national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percentage of students scoring in the upper half, 2002								
Grade	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
3	49.2	50.0	51.5	50.0	58.2	50.0	54.8	50.0
6	57.6	50.0	49.0	50.0	51.2	50.0	51.4	50.0
9*	56.1	50.0	46.8	50.0	51.6	50.0	51.2	50.0

\* Grade 9 estimates were based on a sample that may not be representative of the entire 9th grade population.

**National Assessment of Educational Progress:** a national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

			Percent of students scoring							
Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	8	2002	1	3	23	30	44	43	32	25
Writing	4	2002	1	2	16	26	65	58	18	14
Mathematics	8	2000	2	5	15	22	37	38	45	34

# PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>All Students</b>	897	97.5%	794	21.8%	919	81.4%
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	442	97.7%	392	22.4%	465	79.8%
Female	453	97.6%	402	21.1%	452	83.4%
<b>Race or Ethnic Group</b>						
African American	78	92.3%	74	6.8%	89	74.2%
Hispanic	9	100.0%	5	20.0%	4	I/S
White	801	98.1%	709	23.0%	819	82.2%
Other	6	100.0%	6	66.7%	5	99.0%
<b>Disability Status</b>						
Non-speech disabilities	45	91.1%	35	5.7%	79	63.3%
Students without disabilities	850	98.0%	759	22.5%	0	83.3%
<b>Migrant Status</b>						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-migrant	15	93.3%	794	21.8%	0	N/A
<b>English Proficiency</b>						
Limited English proficient	2	I/S	1	I/S	1	I/S
Non-LEP	893	97.6%	793	21.8%	916	81.6%
<b>Lunch Status</b>						
Subsidized meals	98	98.0%	107	10.3%	127	70.1%
Full-pay meals	796	97.6%	687	23.6%	790	83.4%

\* Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

## 2002-2003 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS

SAT	Verbal		Math		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	514	513	518	513	1032	1026
State	488	493	493	496	981	989
Nation	504	507	516	519	1020	1026

ACT	English		Math		Reading		Science		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	21.4	21.1	21.7	21.2	22.2	21.3	21.1	21.1	21.7	21.3
State	18.8	18.7	19.1	19.0	19.3	19.4	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2
Nation	20.2	20.3	20.6	20.6	21.1	21.2	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8

## SCHOOLS IN "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS"

**DISTRICT PROFILE**

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
<b>Students (n= 15,920)</b>				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Retention rate	3.6%	Down from 5.2%	3.2%	4.0%
Attendance rate	95.9%	Down from 96.1%	95.6%	95.4%
Meeting grade 1 & 2 readiness standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eligible for gifted and talented	16.7%	Up from 15.0%	16.1%	10.7%
On academic plans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
On academic probation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
With disabilities other than speech	11.6%	Up from 11.5%	8.9%	10.6%
Older than usual for grade	3.4%	Down from 3.5%	3.0%	5.5%
Suspended or expelled	1.1%	Up from 0.9%	1.1%	1.6%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	20.4%	N/A	N/A	10.0%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	643	Up from 392	241	186
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	176	No change	105	40

**Teachers (n= 1,070)**

Teachers with advanced degrees	52.5%	Up from 52.2%	53.8%	47.8%
Continuing contract teachers	93.6%	Up from 90.7%	86.6%	82.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	94.1%	Up from 93.7%	91.0%	89.5%
Teacher attendance rate	95.9%	Up from 95.7%	95.4%	95.1%
Average teacher salary	\$41,493	Up 1.6%	\$41,485	\$39,707
Prof. development days/teacher	11.5 days	Up from 9.6 days	10.6 days	11.3 days

**District**

Superintendent's years at district	3.0	Up from 2.0	3.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	21.8 to 1	No change	22.0 to 1	20.6 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.8%	Down from 90.9%	90.1%	89.0%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$6,543	Up 3.8%	\$6,543	\$7,412
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	59.6%	Up from 57.5%	59.0%	56.0%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	96.1%	Up from 94.7%	98.4%	96.1%
Number of schools	25	No change	14	8
Number of magnet schools	0	No change	0	0
Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
Portable classrooms	9.7%	Down from 10.1%	7.8%	3.5%
Average age in years of school facility	31	N/A	21	26
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	25	N/A	12	8

\* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

**Abbreviations for Missing Data**

N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample
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# SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE

**Board Membership** 6 trustees elected to single-member seats, 3 trustees elected to at-large seats

**Fiscal Authority** District Board/Referendum

**Average Number of Hours of Training Annually** 15.0 per board member

**Percent new trustees completing orientation** 100.0%

## DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The School District of Pickens County is the eleventh largest district in South Carolina with twenty-eight schools and programs. Our district is committed to excellence, emphasizing high academic achievement and career preparation for all students through quality educational opportunities in a caring and safe environment.

Our test scores show that our instructional program is strong. Both SAT and ACT scores are above the national and state averages. The district's average SAT score has been above the national average three out of the last five years. The average SAT score is 1032, compared to the national average of 1020 and the state average of 981. The district ranks second among South Carolina districts on the ACT with an average composite score of 21.7. The national average is 20.8; the state average is 19.2. The district ranks third in the state in percentage of tenth graders passing the 2002 High School Exit Exam on their first attempt. In the second year of Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards, we have 10 gold and 2 silver award winners. Ambler Elementary, B. J. Skelton Career Center, Clemson Elementary, Daniel High, Dacusville Middle, East End Elementary, Forest Acres Elementary, Liberty Elementary, Liberty High, and Pickens High are Palmetto Gold schools. Crosswell Elementary and Holly Springs Elementary are Palmetto Silver schools.

Our schools have received state and national recognitions. Ambler Elementary, Clemson Elementary, Dacusville Middle, and Six Mile Elementary joined A. R. Lewis as Red Carpet Schools. Clemson Elementary was a finalist for Palmetto's Finest Elementary School. Ambler Elementary and Six Mile Elementary were named Exemplary Writing Schools. A. R. Lewis Elementary and Pickens High School were selected as Schools of Promise Flagship Schools.

Our exemplary staff development program allows professional educators to adapt activities to their individual needs. Our Professional Development Academy offers courses, school-based staff development, weekday workshops, and training opportunities that create teacher collegiality and leadership. 23 teachers achieved National Board Certification, bringing the district's total number to 64.

Construction began for renovations and additions at Crosswell, East End, Forest Acres, and West End Elementary Schools. A Citizens' Committee with representatives from throughout the district studied all facilities and made recommendations in October.

## DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS

- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal